

The contents are comprehensive, commencing with an excellent chapter on complications of anesthesia. The following seven chapters, surveying kidney transplantation, are mixed. The chapter on vascular complications and perirenal fluid collections could have been combined with the one on urologic complications to avoid repetition. The chapter on wound complications is simplistic. The chapter on complications in children contains a good medical section, but the surgical section is repetitive. The content of the chapters on infectious and cardiovascular complications is good, but the latter chapter lacks conclusions. A chapter on mineral metabolism complications finishes this section on a high point.

The next few chapters, on complications in specific organ systems, are generally excellent. The chapter on cancer and transplantation is masterly. It and the later chapter on pancreatic transplantation demonstrate the immense value of a registry in documenting complications and progress in a highly specialized field. There are annoying lapses, however; for example, the chapter on maternal and fetal complications includes an inappropriate list of conditions that warrant renal dialysis.

The final eight chapters discuss the management of complications of specific organ transplants. They are informative, but the chapter on lung transplantation is outdated, and there is little discussion of heart-lung transplantation. The inclusion of a chapter on corneal transplantation is probably excessive.

The short appendix listing side effects of commonly used immunosuppressive agents could have been expanded.

The book contains many spelling errors, incomplete figure legends, an upside-down figure and two misplaced references. It is expensive but should be on the library shelves of transplantation services.

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Browsings

Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes. Michael F. Drummond, Greg L. Stoddart and George W. Torrance. 182 pp. Illust. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 1987. \$29.95. ISBN 0-19-261601-3

This primer had its beginnings at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., in a course on economic analysis for the evaluation of health services and a series of workshops in continuing education. It is designed not to be an exhaustive exposition of the theoretical underpinnings of medical economics but "to take the reader past the stage of general appreciation of the methodological steps involved, and towards preparing him or her for some *hands-on* experience in undertaking an evaluation". The authors have been remarkably successful.

The first chapter explains how to use the book, and the second outlines four economic analytic techniques: cost-minimization, cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and cost-utility analyses. Chapter three takes the reader through the elements of a sound economic analysis of a health service and identifies the limitations of economic evaluation techniques.

The unique part of the book, however, begins at chapter four: in it and the remaining chapters the authors approach each of the four analytic techniques in detail, refer to a recent article in a medical journal and challenge the reader to apply the principles learned to critical analysis of the economic study. The reader can then see how the authors would rate the article. This is the book's real virtue: although it doesn't claim to make an instant health economist out of the reader, it provides basic questions and skills that everyone who is seriously concerned with the costs of health services have when trying to evaluate the quality of the literature.

This short, inexpensive book is an important addition to the

library of all who are concerned about the economic effectiveness of health care decisions. Indeed, it should be the basis of a course on health care economics in every undergraduate medical curriculum.

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Advances in the Management of Chronic Pain. The International Symposium on Pain Control: Toronto, Canada. Edited by P.R. Band, J.H. Stewart and R.T. Towson. International Symposium ser. 150 pp. Illust. Purdue Frederick, Toronto. 1986. Price not stated. ISBN 0-9692538-0-X

This small paperback contains abstracts of some 25 papers presented at an international symposium in Toronto in 1984. Many of the contributors are of international repute, and I had high expectations after perusing the list. Unfortunately, these expectations were not fulfilled.

Many of the abstracts are very short and do not contribute new knowledge. Others (e.g., "Pain control following day-case herniorrhaphy") are irrelevant in a publication that purports to deal with chronic pain.

There is throughout the book a deplorable bias toward morphine and its derivatives. This is not to say that these drugs are not the prime opioids used in clinical practice, but the treatment of chronic pain requires more than opioids. Antidepressants, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, anticephalalgics, non-narcotic analgesics and many others play a prime role in the pharmacologic management of pain, not to mention physical and behavioural problems. The lopsided emphasis on morphine is easily explained by the symposium's sponsorship by a pharmaceutical manufacturer specializing in an oral morphine preparation.

Finally, some contributions have not been edited to an acceptable standard of English; for instance, it is said that "few med-

ical schools perform sufficient teaching in the management of pain". I have been in this game a long time and have never "performed" teaching; the only performers I am aware of are actors and trained seals.

No price is given for the book; I assume that it is destined for free commercial distribution to interested parties.

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The Rheumatological Physical Examination. Edited by Hugh Little. 149 pp. Illust. Grune & Stratton, Inc., Orlando, Florida; distributed in Canada by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Canada, Don Mills, Ont. 1986. \$57.50. ISBN 0-8089-1824-9

Medical students, interns and even senior residents often admit that they feel uncomfortable when asked to assess an arthritic patient. The reason for their unease is that they either have never learned or have forgotten how to examine the musculoskeletal system. This book addresses this important problem, and overall it is excellent.

The writing is clear, and the illustrations are of good quality, although occasionally an arrow indicating movement or flow is misplaced (as in diagram 32) or confusing (as in diagram 8).

In chapter 13 the reader is not cautioned to fix the pelvis while examining movements of the hip joint. Dr. Adel G. Fam, in his otherwise excellent chapter on the ankle and foot, is somewhat confusing in differentiating inversion-eversion from pronation-supination; he shows two methods for examining the subtalar joint, only one of which is correct.

But these are minor quibbles. Each medical student before graduation, and certainly each intern, should be familiar with the principles outlined here. The many who do not rotate through a rheumatology service will need

the book even more than those who do. As the cost may deter individuals from purchasing the book, I hope that medical school and teaching hospital libraries will realize the importance of adding this text to their collections.

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Canada: From Sea Unto Sea. Edited by Charles J. Humber. 674 pp. Illust. Loyalist Press Ltd., Mississauga, Ont. 1986. \$85. ISBN 0-9692182-0-6

This impressive literary and photographic record of Canada's historical, intellectual and cultural heritage includes a chapter on the history of Canadian health care, by Charles G. Roland, MD, Jason A. Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont. Tracing the evolution of our country's medical care system, "the envy of many nations", Dr. Roland shows that this profound accomplishment "rests, as accomplishment always must, on the shoulders of our forebears". — Ed.

In Flanders Fields: the Story of John McCrae. John F. Prescott. 144 pp. Illust. Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ont. 1985. \$9.95. ISBN 0-919783-07-4

Although "In Flanders Fields" enshrined his name in the minds of the several generations since World War I, John McCrae has not been the subject of a substantial biography until now. In this work we learn of his early days in Guelph, Ont., his medical training at the University of Toronto, his subsequent work (especially pathological) at McGill University, Johns Hopkins Hospital and elsewhere, and his military experiences, which culminated in his appointment as consulting physician to the First British Army — he was the first Canadian to be so recognized.

Prescott traces the evolution of an idealist who became increasingly disillusioned with politics, military administration and organized religion. Indeed, McCrae may be seen as a microcosm of the changes in Western society during the first decades of the 20th century. But although Prescott's portrait of the man is adequate, we are allowed only occasional glimpses of McCrae's soul or psyche. What drove him? Honour? Fear? Duty? Prescott may have been hampered by a paucity of primary documentation, but given the wealth of McCrae's poetry — most of which centres on death and release — he may have overlooked a valuable source for insight into McCrae's character. He quotes liberally from McCrae's letters and poems but does not probe them.

This book is a useful and readable account of a much appreciated but little studied Canadian doctor.

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Malpractice: a Guide to Avoidance & Treatment. Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr., and Stu Chapman. 232 pp. Grune & Stratton, Inc., Orlando, Florida; distributed in Canada by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Canada, Don Mills, Ont. 1987. \$42.95. ISBN 0-8089-1849-4

Although this book is targeted at a US audience it has great relevance for Canada, where the number of malpractice lawsuits and the size of awards have skyrocketed. The authors, one a defence attorney, offer a practical guide for avoiding lawsuits. They explore all aspects of medical practice, give advice on conduct and standards of care, and include with each chapter a "malpractice checklist", designed to decrease the chances of a lawsuit.

The first nine chapters deal primarily with the do's and don'ts of medical practice, the